

## Don't Let the Thrill of the Ride Turn Into a Tragedy



School is back in session and the nice weather will soon be leaving us. This summer two West Linn teens were transported by ambulance to hospitals after suffering severe head injuries.

One rider crashed on his bike going down a hill and a skateboarder hit a boat being pulled by a vehicle. Neither teen was wearing protective headgear which probably would have limited the head injuries they suffered. The thought of a head injury doesn't even cross your mind. Still, it's a risk you're taking if you don't wear a helmet.

Oregon law requires bicyclists, skateboarders, scooter riders and in-line skaters under the age of 16 wear approved protective headgear anytime you are operating on a highway or premises open to the public. This means any street or parking lot such as Safeway or Albertsons as well as the Skate Park on Parker Road.

Anyone operating these devices, regardless of age should wear protective headgear, but the law only covers those under 16. Not wearing protective headgear can result in a fine of up to \$25. If you are 11 years of age or younger your parents will be getting that citation, but parents can be cited for any age child up to 16 years old.

Many people don't realize Oregon law also requires bicycle riders operating on a street obey all traffic laws. This means obeying traffic signals, road markings and signs (which includes stopping at all stop signs), riding on the right with traffic, using correct hand signals, and yielding to pedestrians.

Be safe, be aware of your surroundings, and don't forget the helmet!

Have a safe ride.....Sgt. Steve Taylor

### Web Links

[Bicycle Safety](#)[Bicycle Helmet Do's and Dont's](#)

- [Police](#)

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